UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1999/138
30 March 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 17 (d)

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT

Letter dated 29 March 1999 from the Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith,* an "Appeal to the world public" by the Federal Ministry for Development, Science and the Environment of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I would like to ask you to have it circulated as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 17 (d).

(Signed) Branko Brankovic
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* The annex is reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

APPEAL TO THE WORLD PUBLIC

We appeal to all international organisations and institutions, to governments, relevant political factors and to the entire world public to immediately put an end to the insane act of war aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

NATO bombing of Yugoslavia endangers lives and health of our people including the entire environment.

The destruction of protected natural and cultural heritage, particularly that listed by the United Nations as property of international importance, the destruction of economic facilities, devastation of chemical and industrial plants, are examples of unseen and deadly acts on the environment. Warehouses with dangerous and radioactive waste, including facilities the destruction of which would have industrial damage with trans-boundary effects are particularly targeted.

If continued, these destructive acts and war aggression might reach catastrophic proportions with unforeseeable consequences upon the environment in the FR of Yugoslavia including the area of South-Eastern Europe.

The NATO aggression against the FR of Yugoslavia puts in danger the man as human being, his inviolable right to life and health, as well as the environment which is basis of the entire material and social development.

Such an irrational act is contrary to numerous international documents (The Charter on Human Rights, the UN Charter, the OSCE Documents including international treaties in the field of protection of the environment) that exclude the possibility of war destruction, discrimination and isolation of any country or nation.

Endangering human lives and health, natural and cultural values and material properties, represents the worst kind of devastation of environment. The irrational, aggressive and genocidal behaviour by the NATO alliance against the FR of Yugoslavia, is contrary to the basic norms of international law and causes economic, social and ecological damage to our country.

We appeal that the unseen act of aggression against the FR of Yugoslavia be stopped immediately.

Belgrade, 27 March 1999

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
Federal Ministry for Development,
Science and the Environment